

# TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

## WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FY 2008



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

# TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

## PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

A. Develop and enhance employee leadership skills to anticipate emerging management challenges.

1. Provide annual leadership training and technical training opportunities to employees to promote professional development and job competency.

- TLMD/Forestry employees completed the following training in FY 2007/2008:

<u>Training</u>	<u># of Attendees</u>
Advanced Communication	2
Conflict Management	9
Discipline Handling	3
Effective Communication	8
Effective Supervision	4
Office Ergonomics	9
Performance Management	5
Recruitment/Selection	2

B. Transfer institutional knowledge through succession planning to the TLMD workforce of the future.

1. Coach, develop, and mentor employees by developing and implementing a Career Development Plan for each employee.

- Succession management goals/objectives completed on March 19, 2008.

C. Protect employee safety.

1. Strive to create a safe working environment by routinely inspecting subordinate work areas, promptly addressing unsafe working conditions, and reporting all accidents/injuries in a timely manner to the appropriate personnel.

- Thirteen worker compensation claims were filed in FY 2008.
- TLMD received \$7,192 in Early Return To Work funds to purchase safety equipment, training, etc.

D. Communicate actively with employees and involve them appropriately in decision-making processes.

1. Complete all performance appraisals and career development plans by December 31, 2008. Supervisors should encourage feedback from their subordinates through 360° evaluation procedures.

- Completed.

E. Foster collaboration by promoting cooperative goals and building trust.

1. Facilitate communication between Areas/Bureaus by inviting various field/bureau staff to attend monthly staff meetings and field visits. Collectively develop TLMD Annual Objectives between Areas/Bureaus and with Forestry Division. Implement the Forestry/TLMD MOU on fire training and fire suppression.

- Completed.

F. Recognize outstanding performance of individuals and teams in a timely manner.

1. Identify candidates for annual awards recognition by May 15, 2008. Utilize Paragon of Performance awards for timely recognition of outstanding performance, including sustained performance.

- Land Banking Team – Governor’s Award
- Steve Frye – Director’s Award
- Jordan Larsen, Kristen Baker – Administrator’s Award
- John Hogland – Forester Award
- Steve Webster – Staff Support Award
- Dan Dobler – Land Use Specialist Award

#### ENHANCE RATE OF RETURN FROM TRUST LANDS

A. Allocate personnel to programs to promote the highest return from land while meeting statutory obligations.

1. Generate \$60 million in annual gross revenue for the trust beneficiaries from existing trust land management activities including agriculture and grazing management; mineral development; forest management; and real estate management, while also implementing new and alternative methods of revenue generation from land management.

- FY 05 Gross Revenue from land management activities: \$60 million.
- FY 06 Gross Revenue from land management activities: \$80 million.
- FY 07 Gross Revenue from land management activities \$78 million, including \$10.9 in land banking revenue.
- FY 08 Gross Revenue from land management activities: \$81 million, including \$2.8 million in land banking revenue and \$4 million in navigable river revenue.

- B. Limit increases in operational costs.
- Operating expenses of \$3.3 million in FY 2008.
- C. Implement programs to increase trust land revenue.
1. Participate fully in oil and natural gas development in eastern Montana.
    - Overall leasing increased by over 7% in FY08. Oil and gas leases accounted for the majority of the increase with the largest gain in new leases occurring in counties laying within the Bakken formation in eastern Montana.
    - Over 2 million acres leased, 1.9 million acres leased for oil and gas development.
  2. Utilize land banking to identify poorly performing properties (20,000 acres) while acquiring accessible higher revenue-producing properties (5,000 acres). Sell 10,000 acres of trust land.
    - In FY 2008, the land banking program sold 5,095 acres for a total of \$2.8 million.
  3. Develop high-potential commercial and residential properties in urban growth areas (see REIT Project List).
    - Five commercial leases were offered for lease and negotiated and will be completed in FY 2009.
  4. Consider marketing timber sales to maximize price (size of sales, timing of sales, location, and timely salvage of burned timber).
    - Insect and disease salvage sales (I&D)– 4 sales, 2,544 mbf. I & D sale volume represented 5% of the total annual sustained yield sold in FY 2008.
    - Fire salvage sales – 9 slaes, 19,919 mbf. Fire salvage volume represented 38% of the total sustained yield sold in FY 2008.
  5. Implement the Whitefish Plan and seek out other conservation leasing/easement opportunities.
    - Conservation opportunities under the Whitefish Neighborhood Plan were explored. Conservation of state trust lands was discussed with a local area resident in the Whitefish area. Up to two million dollars may be donated by that resident to the City of Whitefish to conserve state trust lands in the Whitefish Neighborhood Planning area.
  6. Break suitable classified grazing lands and convert to classified agriculture.
    - Approximately 300 acres of grazing land was converted to

agriculture.

7. Secure permanent access to trust lands – 10,000 tributary acres.
  - Total trust land acres accessed: 640 acres.
  - Miles of road received: 6.05 miles.
  - Miles of road granted: 5.37 miles.
8. Diversify trust land portfolio through land exchanges/land banking.  
2030 Goal: 59% grazing, 20% agriculture, 20% timber, 1% other.
  - Four parcels were nominated for acquisition, but no purchases were made in FY 2008

#### **Land Sold by County and Grant FY 2008**

County	Acres	Value	Land Class	Annual Income	Grant	Return
Carbon	295	\$1,342,250	Grazing	\$490	Common Schools	0.04%
Chouteau	960	204,480	Grazing	1,147	Common Schools	0.56%
Garfield	3200	435,900	Grazing	4,303	Common Schools	1.13%
Powell	640	800,000	Grazing	1,047	Common Schools	0.13%
Total	5,095	\$2,782,630		\$6,987	Overall weighted average	0.83%

#### **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT/STEWARDSHIP**

- A. Complete all agricultural and grazing lease renewal evaluations and take corrective actions to address any management problems.
  - Completed inspections for 907 leases containing 1,391 tracts. Fifty-one leases were issued with associated agricultural uses and 104 leases were issued with special lease stipulations.
- B. Complete timber sale inspection reports and take corrective actions to address any management problems.
  - Inspection reports for active timber sales are filled out by the sale administrator with copies given to the purchaser and placed in the timber sale file.
- C. Identify and resolve minerals management problems on oil, gas, or coal leases.
  - Conducted 730 field reviews by field office and mineral type.
- D. Inspect all cabin/homesite and special leases/licenses currently up for renewal/review and/or areas in decline and take corrective actions to address any problems.
  - Field offices conducted 140 residential inspections for both reviews and renewals combined in FY 2008.

- E. Develop and implement DNRC/TLMD weed management plan.
- Updated County Cooperative Weed Management Plans with County Weed Districts. Submitted 56 County biennial weed performance reports to the Department of Agriculture as required under 7-22-2151, MCA.
- F. Complete Forest Improvement projects within budgets, treatment plans and timelines.
- The Forest Improvement (FI) program involves implementing projects that improve the condition and revenue potential of forested state trust lands. FI projects completed during FY 08 included planting, burning, growing seedlings, tree improvement efforts, thinning, weed spraying, regeneration surveys, access acquisition, road inventories, and road maintenance. All FI projects were conducted within allocated budgets and timelines and met or exceeded accepted resource management standards.
- G. Complete State Forest Land Management Plan monitoring requirements and utilize data to design future projects.
- The State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP) Implementation Monitoring Report for fiscal years 2001-2005 was completed and published in October of 2005. The next 5-year monitoring report cycle for fiscal years 2006-2010 is currently underway with data being collected through timber sale inspection reports, BMP audits, and ongoing monitoring projects. This monitoring information is used in training sessions with field staff to continually improve resource management through better timber sale design and mitigations.

## BUDGETING

- A. Division Level: Employ efficient and effective budget, financial, and administrative systems.
1. Complete budget allocation of HB 2 by org by July 30, 2007 for FY08. Complete budget allocation of pay plan increases by October 1, 2007.
    - Completed.
  2. Review mid-year budget analyses provided by Bureaus/Area Offices and prepare mid-year report for Director and TLMD/CSD Administrators by February 28, 2008.
    - Completed.
  3. Reallocate budgets to address unforeseen shortfalls in personal services by April 30, 2008.

- Completed.
4. Complete FY08 year-end projections by May 21, 2008 and reallocate resources to address year-end operating and capital priorities across the division.
    - Completed.
  5. Review cost accounting procedures by trust. Develop legislation for 2010/2011 legislative session to improve transparency and streamline funding of administrative costs.
    - Completed.

## PLANNING AND FISCAL REPORTING

- A. Complete draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Draft EIS to be completed by FY08.
  - Finalized analyses for multiple species and resources, documented methods, and managed data to support each EIS resource analysis.
  - Completed internal reviews of the draft EIS by DNRC and USFWS, compiled comments from internal review, and prepared revisions for all sections based on comments.
  - Finalized tables and figures for publication with the HCP and EIS.
  - Conducted HCP implementation exercises with NWLO.
  - Draft HCP/EIS will be published for public comment in January 2009.
- B. Participate in the EQC studies for HJ 57. Develop EQC-recommended legislation for conservation easements.
  - The EQC prepared a House Joint Resolution No. 57 Study Report to the 61<sup>st</sup> Montana Legislature entitled, “Trust Land Management: An Analysis of Conservation Easements and Other Uses of State Land”, December 2008.
- C. Prepare for the FY10/11 biennial legislative session.
  1. Draft legislation on Trust land funding.
    - SB 65 was drafted and the fiscal note prepared.
- D. Complete Return on Asset Report for FY07 by November 1, 2007.
  - Completed.

- E. Complete the FY07 Annual Report by November 30, 2007.
- Completed.
- F. Reduce energy consumption (utilities, gasoline consumption, etc.) as required by the Governor's 20X10 Initiative for state agencies.
- Plan developed in November 2008.

## AGRICULTURE & GRAZING MANAGEMENT

### **Lease Inspections and Evaluations**

- Completed inspections for approximately 905 leases containing 1,470 tracts. Twenty-eight leases were issued with five year terms, the balance for ten year terms. Approximately 28 leases were issued with associated agriculture uses and 98 leases issued with special lease stipulations.

### **Lease Management**

- Renewed approximately 904 leases. Processed 37 competitive bids on 31 renewal leases. Held two hearings on contested competitive bids. Denied renewal on one agricultural lease and conducted the informal hearing for that non-renewal.
- Approved approximately 54 cash leases.

### **Lease Administration and Assistance**

- Reviewed 40 improvement requests.
- Reviewed and approved 385 assignments.
- Reviewed 220 mortgages for registration or release.
- Reviewed and approved 4 sublease applications.
- Reviewed and approved 507 pasturing agreements.
- Reviewed and approved 15 custom farming agreements.
- Made renewing leases available for viewing via the internet for individuals interested in competitive bidding.

### **Federal Farm Program Administration**

- Direct and Counter-cyclical Payments Program (DCP) – Reviewed and approved DCP contracts (CCC 509's) for all (approximately 2,000) farms containing state agricultural lands.
- Loan Deficiency Program (LDP) – Reviewed and applied for LDP contract payments on qualifying crop production from state lands.

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Reviewed and approved applications for new ten-year CRP contracts. Maintained existing contracts on approximately 145,000 acres. Reclassified lands associated with expiring contracts.
- Reviewed and made application for leases that qualified for Disaster Payments.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Reviewed and approved contracts for lessee participation in EQIP contracts on state lands.
- Management of State Farms – Reviewed and approved requests to recombine or break out state lands from existing Farm Services Agency farms.

### **Resource Development and Management**

- Sixteen cultural/paleontologic inventories, which covered a total of 4,400 acres of land, were conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist. The projects inspected are categorized as follows:
  1. 1 road easement
  2. 2 stockwater pipeline project
  3. 6 timber sales
  4. 5 range renovation proposals
  5. 1 gravel pit proposal
  6. 1 sod break proposal
  7. 2 Parcels nominated for Land Banking (3200 acres)
- During the course of those inventories, 20 newly identified cultural resource sites were documented. Site 24BW966 (a stone circle site at Toston) was excavated and evaluated.
- Assisted DEQ with cultural resource compliance surrounding Major Facility Siting Act issues for the proposed MATL project;
- The review of, and consultation with the SHPO concerning, 20 consultants' reports covering a total of 380 acres of state land and 8 cultural resource sites. Those inventories were carried out in response to oil, gas or coal bed methane developments, gravel pit proposals, highway reconstruction projects, Land Banking nominations, and utility line projects;
- Provided internal review and comments on approximately 77 proposed DNRC undertakings for which EA checklists are required.
- The review of, and consultation with the SHPO concerning, a report of findings prepared by a consulting archaeologist for cultural/paleontologic resources inventory of approximately 21,000 acres of land nominated for Land Banking in Chouteau, Custer and Garfield Counties.
- Provided assistance to the REMB with Land Banking efforts and graphics work.
- Drafted the cultural resources portion of the EIS for the Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Completed 68 Montana Water Court cases and ongoing work for approximately 30 pending cases. Filed for several new water right permits.
- Worked on navigable river projects that included the installation of portable block irrigation diversions.

- Produced numerous queries and reports on the Trust Lands Management database System (TLMS) to (1) aid in the monitoring of rental receipts and crop production data; (2) to improve the efficiency and accuracy of data entry and acquisition; (3) to provide statistics and reports to state and field office staff to facilitate planning and improve the efficiency of field work; (4) to develop a methodology and system for monthly auditing and reconciling of TLMS receipts, refunds, and distributions against the state SABHRS system.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU (FMB)

### FOREST PRODUCTS SALES SECTION

**Table 1 – Distributed Volume and Value for FY08 (7/1/07 to 6/30/08)**

Land Office	Total Volume (MBF)	Total Value (\$)
NWLO	22,552	\$5,221,890
SWLO	17,322	\$3,622,904
CLO	4,519	\$884,408
NELO, SLO, ELO	2,648	\$268,248
<b>Cut Totals:</b>	<b>47,041</b>	<b>\$10,000,730</b>
Total volume and value figures include sales and permits.		

**Table 2 – Sold Volume and Value for FY08 (7/1/07 to 6/30/08)**

Land Office	Total Volume (MBF)	Total Value (\$)
NWLO	34,014	\$6,630,352
SWLO	17,161	\$2,723,329
CLO	1,347	\$119,585
NELO, SLO, ELO	97	\$5,574
<b>Sold Totals:</b>	<b>52,620</b>	<b>\$9,478,839</b>
*FI totaled an additional \$1,222,413. Therefore, the combined value of the timber sold plus FI totaled \$10,701,252 for FY 08.		

### FOREST PRODUCTS SALES PROGRAM

- Distributed Revenue from the harvest of 47.0 MMBF and miscellaneous forest products for a total of \$10,000,730 in revenue and collected \$1,100,709 in Forest Improvement Fees (Table 1).
- A total of 24 timber sales and 52 permits were sold in FY08 with a total estimated volume of 52.6 MMBF and a total bid value of \$9,478,839 (Table 2). An additional 2.1 million board feet were prepared and offered for sale as optional volume with the Three Creeks #2 Timber Sale, but this volume was not sold. The total volume offered for sale by the Forest Product Sales program was 54.7 MMBF in Fiscal Year 2008.
- Provided TLMS support to field staff.

## **FOREST IMPROVEMENT**

- Directed field personnel and facilitated use of Airshed Management System for reporting burns.
- Worked with field personnel on implementation of SFLMP and ARM for biodiversity, old growth and silviculture.
- Served on the ID Team and assisted in the analysis and writing of the forest vegetation section for the White Porcupine EIS.
- Assisted with the forest vegetation analysis for the HCP.
- Represented DRNC on steering committees of Intermountain Forest Tree Nutrition Cooperative, Inland Empire Tree Improvement Cooperative, Inland Empire Reforestation Council, White Pine Seed Orchard Group, and MT/ID Smoke Management Executive Board.
- Planted approximately 505,370 seedlings statewide in FY08.

### FY 2007 Forest Improvement Activities

Plantation regeneration surveys	871 acres
Tree planting	2,282 acres
Tree browse prevention <sup>1</sup>	1,193 acres
Precommercial thinning	478 acres
Noxious weed spraying	2,697 acres
Herbicide application <sup>2</sup>	500 acres
Brush piling	1,989 acres
Pile burning	5,649 acres
Broadcast burning	73 acres
Road maintenance <sup>3</sup>	113.3 miles
Hand brush work	148 acres
Cone collection	406 bushels
Rights-of-Way granted	5.37 miles
Rights-of-Way received	6.05 miles
Trust lands accessed	640 acres
New public access	0 acres
Bio-control bug releases	415 acres
Roads Inventoried and Database updated	89.54 miles

## **TECHNICAL SERVICES SECTION**

- SLI Contracts:
  - Missoula Unit – 9,737 acres
  - Plains Unit – 12,752 acres
  - Total – 22,489 acres
- Seasonal Inventory Crew
  - Libby Unit Completed 6/08
    - Plot data collected for 50 stands
    - SLI data collected for 450 stands, about 10,000 acres
  - Swan Unit Continued in 08

- Plot data collected for 50 stands
    - SLI data collected for 400 stands, about 12,000 acres
  - Clearwater Unit – started in 08
    - Plot data collected for 5 stands
    - SLI data collected in 18 stands, about 600 acres
  - Anaconda Unit – started in 08
    - Assisted Unit with Beetle Damage Survey, about 500 acres
  
- Updated SLI and Road Databases and Maps
  - Updated 64 timber sales and 51 permits
  - Updated or added new roads totaling 5,197 miles
- Preliminary Timber Sale Cruising Projects
  - Swan Unit – White Pork
  - Stillwater Unit
- Assisted Timber Sale Cruise Field Work
  - Swan Unit – Three Creeks II & III
  - Plains Unit – Seared Gulch Fire Salvage & Cooked Mountain Fire Salvage
  - Clearwater Unit – Double Beaver Fire Salvage & 7-10 salvage permit
- Assisted in Timber Sale Cruise Design and Compilation
  - Anaconda Unit
  - Stillwater Unit
  - Plains Unit
  - Swan Unit
- Developed and field tested the process for collecting plot data and locating plot centers using the Trimble Recon as a data recorder and a GPS.
  - Supported field foresters using Recons
  - Tested various hardware configurations to find the best one
  - Field tested data collection protocols
  - Incorporated mobile GIS technologies
- Conducted the following training sessions:
  - MT Cruiser and Cruise Design
    - Bozeman April
    - Kalispell two sessions in May
    - Missoula May
  - Recon Field Use Orientation Day – Did 1 day sessions in Libby, Kalispell, Bozeman, and Missoula
- Continued Improving MT Cruiser Software and Timber Sale Cruising Tools
  - Designed old growth report
  - Redesigned timber sale prospectus report
  - Developed cross tab report generator
  - Updated plot allocator tool
  - Updated cruise design tool
  - Updated import process
- Developed Mobile GIS Applications
  - Designed SLI data entry forms for Recon/ArcPad
  - Designed plot allocator tool for Recon/ArcPad
  - Wrote MT Cruiser Light program for Recon

- Began designing Road Data entry forms for Recon/ArcPad
- Inventory Data on TLMS
  - Developed the capability to view SLI data overlaid on DFC map.
  - Continued to work on SLI updating screens which allow field foresters to enter data via TLMS.
    - Expanded error checking capability to operate real time as data is entered.
    - Expanded capability to autofill many of the data fields.
  
- HCP Support
  - Worked on GIS layers and lots of tables and figures
  - Lynx habitat modeling
  - Grizzly Bear habitat modeling
  - Review and comment on draft EIS chapters
- GIS
  - Updated the following layers: parcels, roads, potential vegetation, TLMS base maps, and database.
  - Updated 2008 SLI to provide current lynx habitat assignments
  - Completed annual SVGBA data updates
  - Worked with interns on updating archival SWLO road data to include road database information
  - Developed a series of manuals for using TLMS to update SLI data
  - Began working on enterprise GIS
    - Obtained and installed EDN software
    - Began talks with ITSD to get access to SDE database
- Road Database
  - Developed and began implementing solution for NWLO spatial road database problem.
  - Designed a Road Database contract that matched new road database structure and that insured spatial functionality
  - Designed a draft road database ready for field testing
- TLMS Tasks
  - Finished making TLMS queries match SABRES records
  - Finished making additional queries to determine volume and value sold
- Collected fire mortality study data in the Sula State Forest
- Began setting up the Jocko Lakes Fire mortality study
- Worked on the following miscellaneous data requests and projects
  - Sula SF Regen Survey data maps and data summary
  - Continued work on the RW package for the Lolo land exchange
  - Created archival fire map for Montana, combined with ownership
  - Preliminary analysis for DOA data in comparison to DNRC productivity values
  - Created map layer of Lynx Critical Habitat and forwarded to F&WS
  - Provided contractors data layers of timber harvesting in the Flathead region
  - Provided draft ownership (Trustlands) to Duane Lund MT State Library

- Provided map layer of all state forests to Delorme
- Produced map of Insect/Disease on the west side of the Swan for Kristen Baker
- Created set of posters for the All Hands Meeting
- Put together data request road information data layer for FW&P
- Provided latest Tract data layer of Surface lands to Fire & Av. Mgmt
- Forest management queries for TLMS for value and volume
- Reviewed DOR potential productivity data for timber taxation
- Reviewed FIA Land Owner Survey and Program Charter
- Worked on Governor's biomass information request
- Designed SWLO Land Banking Cruises and compiled cruise data
- Attend Integrated Multi-agency Forest Restoration Committee meetings
- Helped Stillwater Unit design regen survey and allocate plots
- Gave a presentation to WADNR cruisers on DNRC Cruising Methods and Standards

**FOREST PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION SECTION - This section has overall responsibility for the development, revision, and implementation of the SFLMP, Forest Management Rules and development of the Draft HCP/EIS.**

**Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)**

- Finalized analyses for multiple species and resources, documented methods, and managed data to support each EIS resource analysis.
- Compiled draft EIS for internal review by DNRC and USFWS.
- Coordinated internal reviews of the draft EIS, compiled comments from internal review, and prepared revisions for all sections (affected environment and environmental consequences) based on comments.
- Finalized tables and figures for publication with the HCP and EIS.
- Continued finalizing chapters of the draft HCP
- Conducted HCP implementation exercises with NWLO

**Forest Planning**

- Served as ID team member and EIS writer for White Porcupine Multiple Timber Sales Project
- Provided MEPA assistance to several forest management project teams
- Provided MEPA assistance and rulemaking review to Real Estate Management Bureau
- Coordinated and hosted program-wide public participation training: "The Systematic Development of Informed Consent"
- Coordinated and hosted agency-wide MEPA training: "Managing the MEPA Process and Writing Effective MEPA Documents"
- Reviewed and provided MEPA QA/QC on several timber sale EA's.

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTION**

### **Technical Assistance to Area Land Offices**

- 1) Assisted Land Offices with MEPA analysis and contract design for 8 timber sales
  - NWLO
    - White Porcupine – Soils, Fisheries, Wildlife
    - North Fork by 2 - Fisheries
    - Flower Creek - Fisheries
  - SWLO
    - Fournier Creek- Watershed
    - North Elliston Salvage - Watershed
    - Devil Mountain LA – Watershed
  - NELO
    - Durphy Hills – Watershed
  - CLO
    - South Lyons Creek – Watershed, Fisheries and Soils
- 2) Provided technical assistance to area land office specialists on 12 timber sales
  - NWLO
    - Cooked Mountain Fire Salvage – Soils, Fisheries, Wildlife
    - Camp Creek Fire Salvage - Soils
    - Deemer Peak – Fisheries
    - Cliff Lake – Wildlife
    - Beaver Swift – Wildlife
    - Three Creeks Field Tours – Wildlife and Fisheries
  - SWLO
    - Beaver Creek Fire Salvage – Watershed
    - Whiskey Gulch – Fisheries
    - Baldy 8-Mile – Fisheries
    - North Elliston – Fisheries
    - Hidden Bugs – Wildlife
  - SLO
    - Sarpy - Wildlife
- 3) Reviewed Timber Sale MEPA documents and contract packages.
- 4) Completed field surveys and fish passage stream crossing designs for 3 stream crossing structures.
- 5) Completed fish habitat surveys on 5 streams for NWLO.
- 6) Administered contracts for Sula South Native Fish Restoration Project.
- 7) Assisted SWLO with fire rehabilitation efforts on Jacko Lakes Fire

### **SFLMP Monitoring**

- 1) Coordinated 78 mid-term evaluations on grazing license for NWLO and SWLO.
- 2) Coordinated wildlife and snag monitoring projects at 3 sites on NWLO and SWLO.
- 3) Completed Internal BMP Audits on 12 recently completed DNRC timber sales
  - NWLO
    - Dogwing
    - Foothills #1
    - Lynch Creek Blowdown
    - Low Wood Salvage
    - Taylor Peak
  - SWLO
    - Lost Bear
    - Willow Glen
    - Sweeny Permit
  - CLO
    - Rattlesnake
  - NELO
    - Maiden Peak
  - SLO
    - Deer Creek Fire Salvage L.A.
    - Pine Ridge Fire Salvage
- 4) Completed five soils monitoring projects on DNRC forested trust lands.
  - Post Harvest Soil Effects - Ewing Middle Ridge
  - Pre-Harvest Riparian Soil Temperature Monitoring -Duck-to-Dog
  - Long-Term Soils Effects – Davis Point
  - Post Harvest Soil Effects – Tyler Creek
  - Pre-Harvest Soil Effects – Jocko Lakes Fire Salvage
- 5) Collected fish habitat and riparian stand data for 3 timber harvest monitoring projects in Swan, Clearwater and Stillwater State Forests.
- 6) Collected macroinvertebrate samples from 6 sites in the Swan River State Forest
- 7) Continued stream temperature monitoring at 32 sites statewide.
- 8) Develop and coordinate Stillwater Unit Road Closure Monitoring Plan.
- 9) Assist with preparation of the Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Conservation Agreement Monitoring Report

### **Habitat Conservation Plan**

- 1) Assisted FMB Planning Section and HCP Project Managers with Development of DNRC Forested Trust Land HCP.
  - Participated in HCP Core Team Meetings

- Reviewed, approved and tracked HCP contractor invoices
- Tracked HCP Budget and expenditures
- Completed HCP Grant Reporting
- Developed Conservation Strategy for Gravel Pits
- Reviewed and commented on Internal Review Draft HCP
- Responded to internal comments to Draft HCP
- Completed edits and revisions to Internal Review Draft HCP
- Reviewed and commented on Internal Review DEIS
- Responded to internal comments to DEIS
- Completed edits and revisions to Internal Review DEIS

## **Other**

- 1) Interagency and Cooperative Groups
  - Attended 2008 Intermountain Forest Nutrition Coop Annual Meeting and Steer Committee Meeting.
  - Participated in NCDE Grizzly Bear Subcommittee.
  - Participated in Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Conservation Agreement Technical Team.
  - Swan Valley Bull Trout Work Group
  - Montana Cutthroat Trout Technical Committee
  - DNRC Road Data Subcommittee
  - Statewide BMP Audit Workgroup
  - Statewide BMP Audit – Fish Passage Subgroup
  - Swift Creek Coalition
  
- 2) Training Attended
  - Low-volume grave road surfacing workshop
  - Trust Lands All Hand Meeting
  - SDIC Training
  - Speed of Trust Training
  - Attended Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting
  - Attended Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting

## **OVERALL FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU ITEMS**

- Hired a new Forest Product Sales Section Supervisor.
- Began to implement contract logging program
- Attended Western States Land Commissioners Association biannual meeting
- New Land Exchange Analysis Tool
- ROA 2008
- Attended National Carbon Offset Coalition and Chicago Climate Exchange's Agriculture and Forestry Carbon Sequestration Conference

# MINERALS MANAGEMENT BUREAU

## Administer the minerals management program

- School trust mineral revenues totaled \$37.4 million in FY 2008.
- Oil production from school trust lands decreased 10.1 percent to 1,808,692 barrels produced, while gas production decreased 0.6 percent to 7,751,961 MCF.
- Processed 10 applications for land use licenses, 5 applications for metalliferous leases and 1 application for a non-metalliferous lease, including preparation of MEPA review.
- Processed bond releases for expired mineral leases, permits and land use licenses.
- Processed 16 sand and gravel renewal applications and 5 new permit applications, including site review by field office, and preparation and issuance of permits by MMB.
- The field offices prepared and processed 1 prospecting permit application and 9 small volume permits.
- Processed 18 seismic permits applications, including site review by field office, preparation and issuance of permits by MMB.
- Processed 730 nominations, including field and other agency review, and solicitation of comments from interested public: MMB conducted four quarterly lease sales auctions, with preparation and issuance of lease agreements. Leases are for oil and gas exploration and development, and do not distinguish between natural gas from sandstone or shale formation, and natural gas from coal formations.
- Processed and executed 1,773 oil and gas lease assignments.
- Approximately 51 assists by field offices in the inspection of existing oil and gas leases and improvements, including photography of all sites inspected (except CBM).
- Approximately 5 assists by field offices in the inspection of existing oil and gas leases and improvements, including photography of sites inspected (CBM).
- Processed 60 reviews, including site and MEPA review by field office; with lease compliance, lessee status, depth restrictions, spacing requirements, and participation by MMB. Preparation and issuance of appropriate authorization by field office or MMB as appropriate.
- Approximately 30 assists/corrective actions by field offices in identifying and resolving minerals management problems.
  
- Approximately 37 reviews by field offices for approval of mineral reclamation.
- Field office expressed priorities are 1) training related to field review and evaluation of oil and gas activities as needed, and 2) training on minerals portion of TLMS provided as new modules are added.

## REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT BUREAU

LEASE MANAGEMENT [77-1-103, 77-1-204, 77-1-208, MCA; ARM 36.25.137]

- A. Lease Management
- B. Inspect all cabin/homesite & special leases/licenses currently up for renewal review and/or areas in decline.
  - o Residential renewals – 13 out of 15 field inspections received
  - o Residential reviews – 127 out of 160 field inspections received
  - o Special lease renewals – 6 out of 10 field inspections received
  - o Special lease reviews – 7 out of 15 field inspections received
- C. Complete evaluations of inspections by July 17, 2007 for the leases up for renewal.
  - o Complete
- D. Recommendations for non-renewals need to be received at REMB by August 1, 2007.
  - o No recommendations for non-renewal
- E. NWLO and SWLO will administer their renewals and reviews.
  - o NWLO and SWLO administered their renewals and reviews
- F. CLO, ELO and NELO need to submit inspection reports to REMB along with any required supplemental lease stipulations by September 30, 2007.
  - o CLO - 17 out of 20 inspection reports were submitted
  - o NELO – 2 out of 3 inspection reports were submitted
  - o SLO – 4 out of 5 inspection reports were submitted
  - o ELO – 2 out of 10 inspection reports were submitted
- G. REMB to complete reviews and renewals by January 31, 2008.
  - o All renewals and reviews were completed with the exception of one. This renewal is still pending due to non-payment of property taxes. The lessee recently sent a note that all taxes would be paid within 2 weeks (approximately 10/13/08).

2008	CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO	Total
Reviews	12	1	14	94	46	8	175
Renewals	8	4	2	7	2	2	25

- H. Identify all lease management issues and their progress.
  - o Lease management issues were identified and tracked throughout the year.
- I. Develop, working with area "lease managers," Lease Administration and Management Plan (LAMPs) checklists for the administration of all commercial leases generating \$15,000 and more annually (Dec 31, 2007) [LAMPs light the way to good lease administration!]

- All lease files were cleaned up and organized as the first step towards good lease administration. LAMPS will be better able to be created now that this project has been completed.

**NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS [77-2-210, 77-2-309,77-4-201-211]**

Assist in the development and implement program goals for the Navigable Waterways program by reviewing policy and priority recommendations from bureau, division and the areas, as well as ensure the proper administration and enforcement of the Lake Protection Act and to generate revenue (Dec 31, 2007), and thereafter implementing those program goals.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
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- A meeting called by the Attorney General’s office provided an overview and implications of Judge Honzel's decision that streambeds are school trust lands September 18, 2007. A DNRC meeting was held on 11/29/2007 with the Navigable Waterways Working Group. Appeals by PPL are still ongoing, however, it was determined at the November 2007 meeting that the current navigable waterways policy will continue to be used until appeals are exhausted. Licenses for navigable waterways uses will be issued according to the LUL policy. The joint 310 permit application was amended to make contacting the DNRC more prominent when activities are occurring on navigable waterways.

**LAND BANKING [77-2-361 through 77-2-367, MCA; ARM 36.25.801 through 36.25.817]**

- A. Assist in the trust lands sales process of (20,000 +/- acres) over the next 18 months approval through the Land Board. Assist in processing the sale of trust lands (20,000 +/- acres) for the preliminary approval by the Land Board. Assist in the reassessing the acreages and parcels to be processed to meet the total sale amount of \$20,000,000 in the event that the properties have been identified as a priority for sale are eliminated.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO	TOTAL
8,000	3,200	8,000	1,540	100	1,500	22,340

- B. Assist in the acquisition of property through land banking - All land offices.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
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**REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION [77-1-103, 77-1-601, 77-1-901 through 77-1-912, MCA]**

**Public Relations/Community Outreach [2-3-101 through 2-3-301, MCA, 75-1-101 through 75-220, MCA]**

- A. Participate in and develop relationships with communities, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, realtor associations, financial and economic development groups.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
Communities: Project scoping	Communities: Project scoping	Communities: Project scoping	Communities: Project scoping	Communities: Project scoping	Communities: Project scoping
All other 2 meetings	All other 2 meetings	All other 1 meeting	All other 2 meetings	All other 2 meetings	All other 1 meeting

CLO: Pre-application meeting with City of Great Falls, January 22, 2008  
Meeting with MDOT re: Great Falls By-Pass-Fox Farm, April 9, 2008  
Spacebank Meeting, Bozeman, April 11, 2008

SLO: Public meeting for proposed solid waster transfer site in Park City, MT,  
November 8, 2007  
“Lilypad Lake” trail meeting with BLM, USFS, and Beartooth Backcountry  
Horsemen Assn, January 10, 2008  
Skyview Ridge park Master Plan meeting, February 12, 2008  
Veteran’s Cemetery meeting, February 26, 2008  
Meeting with City of Billings Parks and Planning Departments on Skyview  
Ridge, March 27, 2008  
Open house for Springdale Windfarm, May 29, 2008  
Skyview Ridge, City Council Public hearing for zone change, July 23, 2007  
Skyview Ridge, City of Billings, Planning Board hearing, July 24, 2007

NELO: Martinsdale windfarm meetings  
Public scoping meeting – January 29, 2008  
Meeting with Wheatland County Commission – May 5, 2008

SWLO: Land banking meeting with Double Arrow Homeowners Assn, April 7, 2008  
Multiple meetings with Ravalli County officials and community members on the  
county-wide zoning project  
REMP presentation to Ravalli County, March 2008  
Multiple meetings on the Seeley Lake Neighborhood Plan for Missoula County,  
with Seeley Community Council & Missoula County Rural Initiatives

NWLO: Whitefish City Council re: Trail Runs Through It, November 19th, 2007  
North Lake County Planning and Zoning Committee Field Tour, November 30  
and December 14, 2007  
Community Meeting regarding Woods Bay parcel June 12 and July 21, 2008  
Chain of Lakes Neighborhood Plan Kalispell and Libby Units, Spring 2008  
Kalispell Unit representation on the Rogers Lake Land Use Advisory  
Committee, FY08

ELO: Public meetings (3) on the Eastern MT ESSC Data Center, Miles City, FY08  
Community scoping meetings, Trans Canada Oil and Gas pipeline easement  
proposals.  
Public hearing for zoning change request for the Bull Pasture Subdivision, Miles  
City, FY08

Community/Project Scoping:

At the January 2008 PIT meeting in Great Falls, it was determined by the Bureau and  
Area Planners that annual community meetings were not an effective or worthwhile

method of community outreach. The goal of the community meetings - public involvement and input - was also being met through various means such as neighborhood meetings for specific trust projects, through public hearings before City or County Commissions, planning/zoning boards, and other public bodies. The Director concurred with this assessment and approved the decision to allow Area Offices to hold annual community meetings at their discretion.

**B. Projects**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Office</b>
Alaska Rd.	<p>Commercial/industrial development - Marketing and development of parcel.</p> <p>In April 2008 Belgrade has passed an SID with a cost around \$0.83/sqft. An RFP for development was released in May 2008 and closed in July 2008. There were no respondents.</p>	CLO
Amsterdam Rd.	<p>Mixed use development - Annexation and rezoning of parcel.</p> <p>Meeting held at Belgrade office in August 2007 to discuss possible development of the parcel for a golf course, residential and commercial uses.</p>	CLO
Lewis & Clark Subdivision PUD	<p>Commercial/industrial development</p> <p>The PUD overlay was left in lieu of releasing additional RFPs for leasing. RFPs released in FY2008 resulted in leases for three lots with a fourth in negotiation at the end of the FY.</p>	CLO
Mandeville Rd.	<p>Commercial/industrial development – Complete preliminary plat</p> <p>The preliminary platting was left due to the city of Bozeman’s desire to defer improving Wheat Drive. An artificial lot concept was approved by the city to allow placement of lessee Spacebank, which has access from Flora lane and Mandeville Dr.</p>	CLO
Olney Post Office	<p>Construction of a local post office - Commercial lease with USPS.</p> <p>Financial juggling from the federal government due to the hurricane Katrina put the post office project on hold until late in the FY. An RFP was</p>	NWLO

	released, which closes early in FY2009. It is anticipated a lease with the USPS will be signed in the fall of 2008.	
Spring Prairie	Commercial/professional development - RFP process for development proposals/ Relocate Land Office easements. Develop a plan for the development of the remained of the property  Efforts initiated to obtain plat approvals from the city for phase I of Timberwolf Center.	NWLO
Spring Prairie - new DNRC Site	Ensuring entitlements of property - Rezoning of parcel and growth policy amendment NWLO obtained LB approval to relocate easement for Area/ Kalispell unit office to west side of Section 36. Critical funding needs established and met.	NWLO
Stillwater Industrial	Industrial development - Marketing of parcel and RFP process  Ongoing marketing through real estate sign posted on site.	NWLO
Trail Runs Through It	Implement the Land Use License  Meeting with the Whitefish City Council, November 19th, 2007. An LUL was issued for the Trail Runs Through It trail system and initial stages of the trail system are designed and to be constructed in spring 2009.	NWLO
Gougan Land Exchange	Land Exchange that would include conservation options  Investigation of proposed exchange parcels.	NWLO
Brittel's Point of Pines	Develop community septic system and proceed with the sale of the property.  Final details are being worked out on the Britell's Point of Pines access and sanitation easement project with the expectation that this project will be wrapped up during FY2009.	NWLO
Swan Valley Retreat	Upkeep of existing facility - Fund utilities and maintenance of parcel, appraise and market property.  Continued maintenance of the facility and payment of electric utility.	NWLO

Bull Pasture Subdivision	Commercial/industrial development - Marketing of parcel  Zone change received from Miles City. Lease to DMA for Miles City Armory was signed in June 2006, and development of the Armory has been initiated by DMA.	SLO
Skyview Ridge Subdivision	Mixed use development - Sell residential and lease commercial development  Received preliminary plat approval and zone change from the City. Appraisal contracted issued and Park Master Plan development underway.	SLO
Springdale Wind Farm	Wind turbines on State Land - Environmental assessment and lease negotiations and or reissue RFP  The Springdale Wind Farm near Springdale is working with the environmental requirements necessary to reach Phase 3 of its RFP response and develop an environmental assessment for the project. This public/private wind farm, once built, is expected to be 67.5 MW in size with seven 1.5 MW turbines located on a section of state trust land.	SLO
Reserve Street	Commercial/professional development - Marketing and maintenance  The property was reappraised late in FY2008 which resulted in a new value of approximately \$1.2 million for both lots combined. Also at the end of the FY steps were taken to conduct a traffic study with the ultimate goal of getting MDT authorization to for a turnout lane and access point to the parcel off Reserve street.	SWLO

**Conservation** [76-12-101 through 76-12-123, MCA; 77-1-203, 77-1-204, 77-2-101, MCA]

- A. Identify property appropriate for conservation leasing, easements (public purposes).

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
		640 acres		Whitefish Plan	

The Whitefish Neighborhood Plan identifies potential School Trust Lands suitable for conservation lease/easement. No action occurred in FY08 to secure conservation within the Plan area. Action expected in FY09.

**REIT Team**

- A. Participate in the Real Estate Identification Team.

NWLO	SWLO	CLO	SLO
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The name of the Real Estate Identification Team has been changed to the Project Identification Team (PIT).

Midyear Planner Meeting, Great Falls, January 17, 2008

Attendance Planners from CLO, NWLO, SLO, and SWLO, the Bureau Chief, Bureau Planner, Property Mgmt Section Supervisor. Discussed the status and ongoing needs of approved PIT projects, and projects proposed for presentation to the PIT at the annual meeting.

Annual PIT Meeting, Helena, June 25-26, 2008

The four Area Planners, the Bureau Planner, Property Mgmt Section Supervisor and the REMB Chief participated. On June 25th and 26th, Land Office staff presented two proposed projects to the PIT, and updated the team on the status of ongoing projects previously approved. The team approved the new project, and subsequently revised the project list and presented it to the Land Board.

**Easements**

- A. **Disposition** [77-2-101 through 77-2-107, MCA; ARM 36.25.135]
  - 1. Process application for easement disposition within 60 – 90 days.
- B. **Historic Rights-of-Way** [77-1-107, 77-1-130 through 77-1-141, MCA]
  - 1. Process applications for historic ROWs.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
200	200	200	200	200	200

- 2. All other acquisitions within 60-90 days.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
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Conduct at least 2 ROW working group meetings during the year to be co-chaired by REMB and FMB to discuss implementation of new access policies, budgets, workload, tracking issues and forms, improving coordination and communication, and others

Develop a spreadsheet for the tracking of easement applications to include land office and Bureau status.

**Land Use Licenses** [ARM 36.25.136]

- A. Bill all land use licenses.
  - o Completed
- B. Process and issue all land use license application within 60 – 90 days. (All Land Offices)
  - o With a few exceptions, most LUL applications are processed within the time frame specified. Currently there are 16 LUL applications on file over 90 days old that have not been completed for a variety of reasons.
- C. Implement the new land use license policy.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
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- o Land offices received and began using the new policy in June 2007. The policy is available on the intranet.

**Land Exchanges** [77-2-201 – 77-2-217, Land Board policy]

- A. Process land exchanges for final Land Board approval.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
		Rocky Boy	CB Ranch Lolo NF by Dec. 2008 Lyman Creek	Gougen By Dec. 2008	

- B. Evaluate new land exchange application in accordance with Land Exchange Policy.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
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**General**

- A. **Growth Policies** [77-1-601 through 77-1-606, MCA]

- 1. Participate in the development of city/county growth policies.

CLO	SLO	NELO/Bureau	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
	Stillwater		Granite Missoula Ravalli	Lincoln Sanders Flathead Lake	

Stillwater County: the County's growth policy development process has been put on hold in FY08. The process is expected to restart in FY09.

Ravalli County: has a growth policy in place and is working on developing county-wide zoning. SWLO and Bureau staff have attended neighborhood meetings and made a presentation on the REMB to community members and County officials to inform them on the nature of State Trust Lands.

Granite County: has adopted a Growth Policy

Missoula County: has a Growth Policy, is working on an update in 2008-2009. A Regional Plan is under development for the Seeley Lake/Clearwater area. SWLO and Bureau staff members have attended meetings of the Seeley Lake Community Council that is leading the planning effort.

Lincoln County: growth policy development is underway and proposed for completion in FY09.

Sanders County: growth policy development is underway and proposed for completion in FY09.

Flathead County: County Growth Policy amendment adopted in FY07.

Lake County: Anne Moran of the Kalispell Unit is participating in the development of a Neighborhood Plan for the North Lake County Area.

**B. Committees**

1. Participate in the Real Estate Management Advisory Committee and associated working group. Two meetings annually for the REMAC and each working group:
  - Rights-of-Way
  - Lease Management – Lease Management meetings were held in October 2007 and June/July 2008.
  - Land Use Licenses – Forming a Land Use License committee was discussed in the lease management meetings. The field offices are receptive to an LUL committee, and the first meeting will occur in FY09.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
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**RIGHTS OF WAY**

**Easements**

**C. Disposition** [77-2-101 through 77-2-107, MCA; ARM 36.25.135]

1. Process application for easement disposition within 60 – 90 days.

FY08 Accomplishment: The majority of complete applications received in the field offices were processed within the 90 day time-frame. Easements requiring legal consultation and those needing additional information, sometimes including

permitting from other sources, were processed in a timely manner, none exceeding 180 days.

**D. Historic Rights-of-Way [77-1-107, 77-1-130 through 77-1-141, MCA]**

1. Process applications for historic ROWs.

FY08 OBJECTIVES:

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
200	200	200	200	200	200

FY08 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
107	14	87	1	6	32

Note: Volume of historic applications received in each area office were insufficient to support the objective. SWLO currently has 90+ historic utility applications that may be processed in FY09, dependent upon applicants ability to pay.

2. All other dispositions within 60-90 days.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO

FY08 Accomplishments:

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
14	6	33	1	4	9

FY08 Objective: Conduct at least 2 ROW working group meetings during the year to be co-chaired by REMB and FMB to discuss implementation of new access policies, budgets, workload, tracking issues and forms, improving coordination and communication, and others

With the vacant acquisition position in FMB, no formal working group meetings were held in FY08. Teleconference calls occurred with specialists in NWLO, SWLO and CLO to discuss implementation strategies and creation of a handbook for the two access policies approved by the Land Board in September, 2006

FY08 Objective: Develop a spreadsheet for the tracking of easement applications to include land office and Bureau status

Each area office is responsible for development of their own internal tracking system for easements. The Bureau is developing a main tracking sheet for applications and assignments once they reach the main office for processing.

**LANDS SECTION FY 2008**

LAND BANKING [77-2-361 through 77-2-367, MCA; ARM 36.25.801 through 36.25.817]

- A. Assist in the trust lands sales process of (20,000 +/- acres) over the next 18 months approval through the Land Board.

Actual Acres sold in FY08

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO	TOTAL
0	295	960	640	0	3200	5,095

- B. Assist in processing the sale of trust lands (20,000 +/- acres) for the preliminary approval by the Land Board. Assist in the reassessing the acreages and parcels to be processed to meet the total sale amount of \$20,000,000 in the event that the properties have been identified as a priority for sale are eliminated.

Acres processed through Preliminary Approval FY08

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO	TOTAL
9,860	2,670	5,338	1,220	80	129	19,297

- C. Assist in the acquisition of property through land banking - All land offices.  
ACTUAL ACRES ACQUIRED FY08

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Acres processed through Preliminary Approval FY08  
(FOUR SEPARATE ACQUISITIONS)

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO	TOTAL
5211	0	5086	1777	0	0	12,074

**Land Exchanges** [77-2-201 – 77-2-217, Land Board policy]

A. Process land exchanges for final Land Board approval.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
		Rocky Boy	CB Ranch Completed Lolo NF by Dec. 2008 Lyman Creek Preliminary approval Dec.2008	Gougen By Dec. 2008	

B. Evaluate new land exchange application in accordance with Land Exchange Policy.

CLO	SLO	NELO	SWLO	NWLO	ELO
Kyler - Denied	Celandar-Denied	Coffee Creek - Prelim Approval	CSKT – Prelim Evaluation		

## CENTRAL LAND OFFICE

### Forest Product Sales

- Sold 1.3 MMBF of timber.
  - BU—Baker Draw (668 MBF)
  - BU--Jackson Creek Salvage (102 MBF)
  - BU--Pole Canyon Permit (100 MBF)
  - BU—W Fork Berry Creek (147 MBF)
  - DU--Jackson Creek P&R Permits (198 MBF)
  - DU--Ditch Permit (80 MBF)
  - DU—Plum Creek P&R (15 MBF)
  
- Prepared 650 MBF of timber for sale.
  
- Assisted with HCP Planning (DJ Bakken is eastside representative).

### Forest Improvement

- Completed approximately 71 acres pre-commercial thinning.
- Completed approximately 14 acres weed spaying on timber sale sites.
- Completed 16 acre broadcast burning project

### Minerals Management

- Conducted renewal inspections for gravel leases and permits.
- Conducted inspections for oil and gas renewals in Conrad Unit.

### **Agriculture and Grazing Management**

- Completed inspections on 815 leases expiring 2/28/2008.
- Administered the existing 3,667 grazing leases.
- Completed 41 weed treatment projects on trust lands.

### **Real Estate Management**

- Participated on advisory committees and working groups as requested.
- Completed renewal inspections on special leases.
- Processed easement applications.
- Administered recreational use management rules on state lands in CLO.
- Administered 80 Active Special Recreational Use Licenses for Outfitting.
- Administered 240 Active Land Use License within CLO.
- Completed new Commercial Lease in Bozeman

## **EASTERN LAND OFFICE**

### **PERSONNEL**

Provide a safe work environment.

- ELO recorded no “lost time accidents” for FY 2008.
- 10% of ELO staff and all “fire line going” employees completed 1<sup>st</sup> aid / CPR training and required Standards for Survival and Fire Shelter deployment refresher training

Maintain positive morale.

- On going as needed through ELO staff meetings and mid year performance communications.

Provide training opportunities that advance professional skills.

- ELO staff has attended numerous professional skills training sessions throughout the FY 08 – some of the areas addressed are professional natural resource management workshops, fire fighting, GIS-GPS location – customer services – weed and pest management, leadership.

### **Trust Land & Forestry Division**

- A. Coordinate DNRC interagency communication interaction with local citizen organizations, local community governments, state and federal agencies and the general media.
  - ELO participated in numerous interagency forums and meetings throughout FY 08 including but not limited to Interagency Wild land Fire Operations (Miles City Dispatch Center, Northern Rockies Coordination Group East Zone, Southeastern Montana Fire Alliance), Montana Association of

Counties, Southeastern Montana Economic Development Group and many Local Government meetings regarding local Disaster / Emergency Service organization involving all ELO counties. Weed management meetings professional organizational meetings in Range Management, Biomass Working Group.

- B. Implement the TLMD / FD MOU in regards to wild land fire management.
  - During the 2007-08 fire season, the ELO TLD staff (nearly 3.5 FTE) contributed nearly 4weeks (August) towards fire suppression assistance to the FD wild land fire program. These duties were performed while simultaneously maintaining ELO TLD projects at a maintenance level.
- C. Optimize personnel performance through application of scheduled personnel “Performance Appraisal” processes.
  - Year Performance Appraisals were completed on the entire ELO FD and TLD staff employees along with Career Development Tracking documents (7.5 FTE)
- D. Maintain effective transition communications with the NELO regarding the transfer of Garfield and McCone county DNRC TLMD and FD program administration to the ELO. Continue for FY 08.
  - On going.

## **PROGRAMMATIC**

### **Forestry Division/Fire & Aviation Bureau**

- A. Coordinate fire pre-suppression, prevention and suppression preparations for 2007(08) fire season with the FD – Fire and Aviation Bureau and other state, local and federal cooperators.
  - County Coop Fire Training Summary:  
County firefighters trained = 399  
Individual classes presented = 24  
Courses presented: S-366, I-2--, S-215, Basic Wildland Firefighter (S-131,S230,234,290,212,RT130,GPS-15
  - Coordinated pre-season fire meetings with 7 of ELO’s cooperator counties.
  - Numerous meetings and conference calls also take place with our federal and county wild fire cooperators to address seasonal NRCG Restriction and Closure needs as conditions warrant.
  - Delivered 5 new county coop fire engines to counties (Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Powder River and Richland).
  - Inspected all State County Coop fire equipment in pre-season. Approximately 85 pieces of County – Coop equipment inspected
  - Attended 3 Eastern Montana Fire Alliance meetings in FY 2008.
  - Attended 4 local Line Officer meetings across NRCG East Montana Zone
- B. Respond to fire emergencies, as per ELO/FD State County Cooperative Fire Management Plan and the Montana 6-Party Cooperative Fire Management Agreement operations guidelines.

- C.
  - FY 08 the ELO Fire Program provided 2 assists to the state / county program.
  - ELO had no federal agency assists in FY 08.
- D. Participate in the Miles City Interagency Dispatch Center.
  - On going; participated in MC Dispatch Center organizational operational meetings as necessary.

**Forestry Division/Forestry Assistance Bureau**

- A. Manage and enforce Montana State “Hazard Reduction Agreement” law to ensure hazard reduction of timber harvest slash.
  - 1. Conduct site visits on at least 30% of active agreements, distributed between pre-harvest, post-harvest, and during operations visits or slash inspections.
    - Approximately 6 site visits conducted in FY 08.
- B. Manage and enforce state Streamside Management Zone law and BMP guidelines and perform enforcement duties as necessary.
  - 1. Assist with BMP site selection and review as requested by Bureau.
    - As per above.
- C. Promote state nursery sales.
  - Presented state nursery sales options to potential local users on the ELO. Approximately 2 contacts presented.
- D. Maintain ELO involvement in the community forestry program.
  - 1. If requested, assist Bureau staff in conducting Arbor Day celebrations on ELO.
    - ELO was contacted and presented the Glendive Tree City USA certification as requested by FD Eastside Urban Forester.
    - ELO was requested to contact ELO community forestry/parks personnel throughout relevant ELO communities to distribute Emerald Ashborer insect traps. 4 EAB traps were distributed along with EAB briefings to community personnel.
  - 2. Establish “Tree City USA” designation in Miles City.
    - \*2 organizational meetings took place in FY 08.
- E. Initiate Forest Biomass information and contacts to interested constituents.

- ELO Biomass Working Group remained active with approximately 4 meetings in FY 08. ELO staff forester conducted biomass presentations to local civic groups as requested. Approximately 1 presentations conducted.
1. Contact NRCS offices within ELO to facilitate EQIP cost-share program.
  2. All completed FLEP projects are closed and expired. FLEP cost-share agreements are closed or completed by FYE.
    - None

### **TLMD/Forest Management Bureau**

- A. Administer ELO forest products contracts efficiently and effectively, capturing optimum revenue for the school trusts.
  - Carried over FY 07 to FY 08 timber salvage volumes as per item B below to address eastside prep volume requirement. Completed administration of Knowlton Exchange contract.
- B. Prepare at least 1.1 MMBF of timber for sale yearly (figure reflects update of ELO sustained yield calculations from previous 0.8 MBF yearly target to new ELO target of 1.1 MMBF – eastside harvest total to increase = 2.5 MMBF).
  - As per above.
- C. Coordinate with Forest Management Bureau and other eastside Land Offices the eastside timber harvest targets under NELO –SLO – ELO – CLO timber zoning program.
  - As per above and realigned ELO staff Forester Position Description to accomplish items as described above.
- D. Assist SLO in timber salvage requests as needed.
  - As per above.

### **TLMD/Minerals Management Bureau**

- A. Respond and facilitate increased TLMD Minerals Management Bureau activity (routine O&G permit reviews, sand and gravel permits, seismic permits and Coal Bed Methane field developments taking place on the ELO (MEPA), implement new surface damage settlements.
  - FY 08 Conducted approximately 15 oil and gas field reviews of proposed oil and gas development locations (MEPA – EAs).
  - FY 08 Conducted MEPA – EA review for 3 Seismic permits.

- B. Coordinate TLMD MMB, Surface Management Bureau and Real Estate Management Bureau, Land Use License activity for increased O&G road and pipeline development associated with O&G minerals on the ELO (MEPA).
- As per above.

### **TLMD/Surface Management Bureau**

- A. Complete TLMD Surface Management Bureau lease renewals on the ELO (approximately 300 lease renewals across the ELO).
- Completed all FY 2008 (305 lease renewals).
- B. Take corrective action for TLMD – Surface Management Bureau on surface lease violations (including crop shares).

\*Approximately 15 corrective action letters were sent to lessees as condition warranted after lease renewal visits.

- C. Implement the ELO weed management program and assist cooperators in collaborative weed management projects.
- ELO provided Custer, Fallon, Richland, Prairie and Dawson counties with technical and financial assistance with weed suppression projects within their counties.
  - ELO personnel provided weed management assisted treatments over approximately 295 acres of Trust Land.

- D. Tongue River Ranch Management operations development and implementation:

1 Coordinate use of the Tongue River Ranch for public, lessee and various land management cooperators in areas of mutual concern and interest. To include; recreational access concerns, wildlife habitat and trust land revenues.

- Installed 2 kiosks at major portals of TRR recreational access road system.
- Established 4 new drive through cattle guard gates on TRR access road system.
- Established 5 parking areas associated with the TRR road access system.
- Conducted approximately 6 meetings with DFW&Ps managers to present possible management alternatives to DNRC TLD staff and TRR lessees to address funding sources for wildlife – stock habitat and rangeland potential improvements.

2 Established: Grazing Management Plan for the Tongue River Ranch trust land parcels.

3. Met with the TRR lessees to update the TRR “Grazing Management Plan”.

- F. Coordinate management of the ELO Recreational Use Program with TLMD Ag and Grazing Bureau.
  - 1. ELO TL management staff coordinating rec. use (weed and boundary identification with posts and signage) with various lessees and cooperator agencies (BLM and MT DFWP).
  - 2. Hunting outfitter license renewals: 4 licenses renewed.  
5 outfitter licenses amended.
  - 3. Approximately 20 trapper SRUL authorized and forwarded to bureau.

**TLMD/Real Estate Management Bureau**

- A. Assist TLMD Real Estate Management Bureau with the implementation of the “Land Banking Program” on the ELO.
  - 1. ELO TLD staff initiated evaluation of 20,408 acres for the REMB Land Banking Program (MEPA – EAs, water rights, scoping etc.).
- B. Coordinate and facilitate requests for land exchanges as needed (Sanjel USA & DMA / Armory projects).
  - 1. ELO has addressed approximately 3 requests for land exchange on the ELO (Galt – Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facility – “351 assignment of Pine Hills old campus to Custer County for public works use).
  - 2. ELO facilitated transfer of Pine Hills DOC lands to DOA ITSD for Eastern Montana Data Center site development.
- C. REMB – Surface Leasing implementation and coordination.
  - 1. Land Use License application processing: 7 LULs processed by ELO staff.
  - 2. Historic Rights of Way application processing: 10 HROW processed and forwarded to REMB.
  - 3. 4 Home site lease inspections completed.
  - 4. Easement applications processed: 8 easements applications processed and forwarded to REMB (includes Rights of Way).
  - 5. ELO attended 4 preliminary meetings regarding proposed energy pipeline easement projects. One project is for an oil pipeline and one is for a natural gas CBM pipeline. The DEQ is the lead state agency for both projects but the ELO will have MEPA development responsibility once the actual location is established.

6. ELO attended 2 meetings regarding the T&E species restoration project on the Lower Yellowstone. The DFWP is the lead agency for State of Montana. The project will remove the Intake Irrigation structure within the Yellowstone River and establish a more environmentally acceptable structure to allow fish passage for the endangered palid sturgeon.

## NORTHEASTERN LAND OFFICE

### **Forest Product Sales**

- Forest products sold: Majerus Salvage Sale = 500,000 BF
- Timber permits = 5 permits, 10,000 tons pulp

### **Mineral Management**

- Oil and gas lease reviews = 341
- Oil, and gas wells and pipelines = 30
- Oil and gas seismic exploration = 10
- New gravel permits = 2

### **Agriculture and Grazing Management**

- Lease evaluations and renewals = 495 tracts, 315 leases.
- Corrective lease stipulations implemented - 47
- Weed management = County weed plans in place in all thirteen NELO counties  
All priority weed projects implemented or in progress  
Extensive biological control efforts undertaken

### **Real Estate Management**

- Chouteau County land sale – 2 parcels, 960 acres
- Prepared for sale - 38 parcels, 5,537 acres
- New land use licenses = 21
- Total land use licenses = 137
- Recreational Use Program:
  - New Outfitting licenses - 2
  - Outfitting licenses (SRUL) renewals = 23
  - Multiyear licenses = 12
  - Trapping licenses (RU3) - 14
- Easement applications processed = 146

## NORTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE

### **PERSONNEL:**

- ◆ Continued implementation of the NWLO reorganization. CMS was contracted to update position descriptions.
- ◆ Recognized 17 personnel through awards
- ◆ Hired a new Wildlife Biologist on the Northwest Land Office
- ◆ Hired one Management Foresters on the Stillwater Unit.

### **FOREST PRODUCT SALES:**

- ◆ Timber Sale Volume prepared for sale:
- ◆ Timber Sales 34,423,000 board feet
- ◆ Timber Permits 749,000 board beet
- ◆ Timber Sale volume harvested was 22,777,000 board feet

### **REAL ESTATE:**

- ◆ 31 review/renewal inspections on cabin and home sites completed.
- ◆ 2 “other” real estate lease review/renewal inspections completed.
- ◆ 37 Land Use Licenses
- ◆ 18 SRUL’s issued (14 – RU3, 4 – Outfitting)
- ◆ Glacier High School on Spring Prairie parcel September, 2007
- ◆ USFS office construction complete. Occupied in October 2007
- ◆ Reserve Loop portion of bypass construction completed September, 2007
- ◆ Ongoing Whitefish Neighborhood Plan Implementation
- ◆ City of Whitefish “Trail Runs Through It”
- ◆ Goguen Land Exchange proposal in process
- ◆ Britell’s Point of Pines access and sanitation proposal in process
- ◆ Echo Lake Fishing Access site opened Summer of 2007
- ◆ Exploring Land Banking acquisitions in Flathead
- ◆ Ongoing tribal land exchange discussion

### **MINERALS MANAGEMENT:**

- ◆ 8 Active aggregate permits
- ◆ 2 Metalliferous leases were issued
- ◆ 7 small volume permits issued.

### **AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING:**

- ◆ 33 intermediate inspections completed on riparian areas on classified forest tracts

### **RIGHT-OF-WAYS PROCESSED:**

- ◆ 5 Joint applications reviewed for Navigable Rivers-No permits required
- ◆ 1 Easement granted for Navigable Rivers
- ◆ 4 Land Use Licenses issued for Navigable Rivers

- ◆ 16 temporary road use permits processed
- ◆ 1 temporary road use permit extended
- ◆ 6 assignments of Rights of Way
- ◆ 7 Historic Rights of Way
- ◆ 2 Utility easements
- ◆ 2 private access roads granted to two Road Users Associations
- ◆ 1 Private road easement granted
- ◆ 1 cost-share accesses acquired:

<u>Cost-Share</u> <u>Board Approval</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Non Cost Share</u>	<u>Land</u>
Pinkham 2008	2.11	0.03	May,

## SOUTHERN LAND OFFICE

### Forest Management

- Established the Abel Timber Permit and assisted with pre-sale timber establishment on the Sarpy Creek Timber Sale and the Berry Creek Timber Sale.
- Performed Timber Sale administration on the Able Timber Permit.
- Participated in the Pine Ridge Timber Sale and Deer Creek Timber Sale internal BMP audits.
- Completed 8 firewood permits.
- Completed one Land Use License for hauling forest products across State land.

### Minerals Management

- Completed field reviews on Waddle Creek, Heller's Peak, and Fork's Ranch CBNG Plan of Development and in the process of finalizing the draft EA for public comment.
- Completed field reviews for Corral Creek CBNG POD.
- Completed field reviews of existing CBNG POD's to check compliance with CBNG Operating and Reclamation Plans.
- Met with Fidelity, Nance, and Pinnacle concerning future CBNG projects.
- Completed five mineral LULs that support mineral development.
- Provided comments to MMB on approximately 36 tracts going out for sale.
- Reviewed three proposals for traditional oil and gas development.
- Reviewed three P & A oil wells for reclamation.
- Reviewed one gravel permit for reclamation.

### Agriculture and Grazing Management

- Completed 60+/- field evaluations for 2008 lease renewals by Nov 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- Completed 10 lease renewals for the 2009 renewal period.

- Completed 8 re-evaluations for various reasons including post-burn tracts, lessee requests, unleased tracts, and new lease tracts.
- Investigated and initiated follow-up action on 6 lease management problems including overgrazing, low production crop reporting and poor agricultural practices, unauthorized supplemental feeding and hay storage sites, an illegal dump site, illegal subleasing, and other unauthorized uses.
- Took enforcement action and developed management stipulations, including seasonal deferment, year-long rest, cross fence installation, requiring reporting livestock numbers and dates of use, dump clean-up, etc. on 4 leases.
- Monitored 10+ tracts for management stipulation cooperation and contacted 5 lessees for violations, verifications, and problem solving.
- Processed applications for improvements, assignments, and pasturing agreements on 50+ tracts.
- Administered DNRC's involvement in the Federal Farm Program involving reviewing, analyzing, and authorizing State shares and participation in the various Federal programs: LDP, DCP, and CRP. This ongoing process requires a good working relationship with the 7 FSA offices in the SLO area.
- Reviewed Seeding and Production Reports on all SLO crop leases and assisted lessees in order to accurately complete the reports.
- Participated in 4 EQIP meetings with various district NRCS personnel and lessees to review, and authorize or decline requested projects.
- Involved with and resolved 3 lessee feuds regarding boundary disputes between the State and deeded properties. This time consuming involvement required numerous site visits with the hostile parties, and phone and mail correspondence.
- At the request of lessees or neighboring landowners, established 3 different property lines between State and deeded property.
- Reviewed tracts and submitted SLO's high priority tracts for potential future land banking and was involved with the Land Banking program.
- Worked with the Yellowstone County Public Works department and 3 lessees to relocate a drainage ditch off the BBWA canal to prevent the puddling of waste water on State land.
- Administered SLO noxious weed control program.
- Attended the MWCA annual convention in Great Falls.
- Completed 7 county weed plans for the '08-'09 biennium including 46 total projects and involving 75+ State tracts.
- Monitored the success/progress/failure of 25+ past cooperative weed control projects.
- Conducted biocontrol collections and tours with lessees, various weed district personnel, and DNRC personnel.
- Assisted the Carbon County Weed Supervisor on a Salt Cedar control project on State land in Section 36-T8S-R23E along Silver Tip Creek.
- Handled numerous walk-ins and phone call regarding a wide range of land management issues regarding agriculture, grazing, recreational use, minerals, Land Banking, Land Exchange, etc.
- Began work on four LUL's for water projects that have not yet been completed.
- Began work on 3 ROW easement requests across State land.
- Attended meetings with the 7 County Weed Supervisors regarding weed control projects and to assess the success and status of previous year's projects.
- Attended a NBI ROW Law class in Missoula.

- Hosted the '08 Land Use Specialist Meeting in Livingston, MT.

### **Real Estate Management**

- Completed 6 home site/special lease inspections.
- Issued 9 Land Use Licenses, processed 12 Easements, and 14 Historic Right-of Way or Utility easements.
- Participated in R-O-W working group conference calls and meetings.
- Worked with Yellowstone County and FWP on Alexander Road parking lot.
- Coordinated with FWP to identify State land with signs.
- Worked to obtain zoning and subdivision entitlements from the City of Billings on Skyview Ridge Subdivision. This was accomplished through the submittal of zone change and subdivision applications and attendance at Billings Zoning Commission and Yellowstone County Planning Board meetings.
- Administered SRUL's for 15 outfitters, 15 trappers, and 3 special requests.
- Installed large, changeable informational signs on Trust land at the Alexander Road recreational use parking lot and adjacent to Rehberg Ranch subdivision.
- Worked with the REMB to prepare 14 tracts for sale in Land Banking, including contact with lessees, scoping and preparation of EAs.
- Worked with Alternity Wind, LLC in the development of a scope of work for an EIS for a proposed wind farm near Springdale. The SLO also hosted an initial public meeting in Big Timber on the project and environmental review.
- Area Planner participated in the Real Estate Management Plan Administrative Rules team, including attending meetings and reviewing and commenting on numerous drafts.
- Participated in application review and a public meeting for a proposed solid waste transfer site on Trust land near Park City in Stillwater County.
- Attended various Zoning Commission, Planning Board, City Council, and County Commission hearings to listen to testimony on land use applications near Trust lands.
- Participated in meetings hosted by FWP regarding the creation of a park master plan for the Rosebud Battlefield State Park.
- Area Planner attended a Commercial Leasing seminar in Fairmont.
- Two SLO employees attended a Road Law workshop in Missoula.
- Posted signs, drove fence posts, and fixed fencing and gates on a continual basis in response to various recreational use complaints.
- Participated interagency group pursuing access trail to Crater and Lily Pad lakes.
- Reviewed multiple potential land exchange proposals.
- Participated in Real Estate Project Identification Team meetings.
- Attended meetings on the proposed North Bypass near Billings.
- Opened two previously closed sections near Billings to non-motorized recreational use and archery hunting.
- Participated in Yellowstone County and the City of Laurel's efforts to establish a Veteran's Cemetery north of Laurel, with a portion proposed on Trust Land.
- Worked with Lockwood School, Yellowstone County, and DNRC legal staff in preparation of documents to abandon and modify existing easements running through property owned by the Lockwood School and Yellowstone County.

- Administered contracts for the Master Plan update, Traffic Accessibility Study, and submission of zone change and subdivision applications for proposed Skyview Ridge Subdivision in Billings Heights.

## SOUTHWESTERN LAND OFFICE

### PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

#### **Personnel Management**

- Selected 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month as the planned (preferred) date for SWLO Staff Meetings
- Identified candidates for annual and special awards. Peer awards granted for Administration, Fire, Lands and Forestry Assistance. Real Estate Management Group received Governors Award.

#### **Budget Management**

- Successfully managed FY 08 budgets. Prior to leaving Karel developed a monthly budget status report system.
- Used (50651) “Administration” Budget. Continue to develop better estimates of fixed costs for both the Land Office and the Units in order to budget available FY funding.
- Utilized available Resource Development money for on-the-ground projects
- Purchased a Ford Taurus Sedan to increase vehicle fleet mileage
- Replaced outdated telephone system at the Clearwater Unit Office

### TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT

#### **Revenues**

- Gross Revenues for FY08 (from Jordan Larson) were \$3,612,000. AGM - \$392,051; FM - \$2,020,977; REM - \$1,178,292; MM - \$21,169. This is less than the \$5,000,000 projected.

#### **TLMS**

- The Area has become relatively self sufficient in TLMS duties/functions of the Forest Management program. LO is performing timber sale truck ticket entry for Clearwater and Missoula Units. Anaconda and Hamilton Units are doing their own.
- All Units are now entering information for timber permits including truck tickets.

#### Forest Management

- Prepared 17,460 MBF. Exceeded work objective by 5,544 MBF (will receive credit for 5,544 MBF in FY 09). Reasons for extra volume primarily associated with fire salvage (Tin Cup, Fournier Creek, Starving Cramer, Buck-Finley,

- Double Beaver) and Bug salvage (Hidden Bugs, Devil Mtn Limited Access, Peterson Creek, Haywire Wallace Addition, Still Cool Bugs, Sleeping Child).
- Administered active Timber Sales & Permits. Having difficulties regarding TS contract extensions due to market conditions.
- Completed two internal BMP audits, assisted with identification of formal BMP Audit sites.
- Completed mid term grazing evaluations
- Issued contract for road inventory jointly with NWLO. SWLO portion is in Ravalli County.
- Brian Robbins assisting with development of Contract Harvesting program.

### **Real Estate Management**

- Inspected all cabin/home site leases/licenses up for renewal/review (about 100) – also inspected problem cabin sites.
- Completed work on survey projects Philipsburg, Grant Creek, and Seeley Lake North. Filed plats with counties.
- Issued contracts for surveys of Dogtown, Seeley Lake development areas as well as Sixmile and Fish Creek.
- Worked with Rural Initiatives in Missoula County on Seeley Lake Growth Policy. Maintained contact with Ravalli County on planning efforts.
- Continued to work with Seeley Lake municipal water district.
- Actively participated with Nature Conservancy and the Blackfoot Challenge regarding land dispositions.
- Land Exchange
  - Lolo NF Exchange – in progress
  - Tarkio Exchange – Administered road construction work on newly acquired DNRC land.
  - CB Ranch Exchange – completed
  - Creech Exchange – in progress
  - Lyman Exchange – Preliminary LB Approval, land appraisal completed
  - Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Jocko/Lincoln Exchange – initiated scoping
- Land Banking
  - Tupper Lake Acquisition – completed
  - Chamberlain Acquisition – concept in progress
  - Cancelled proposed land sales on Kleinschmidt Flats and Miles crossing
  - Initiated work on proposed land sales Sixmile, Cayuse Hill, Double Arrow, Landers Fork, Trapper Mountain, and Wallace Ranch.
  - Montana Legacy Project – concept and discussions ongoing.
- Reserve Street – Contracted traffic study with WGM and submitted Reserve Street Driveway Approach to MDT.

## **Agriculture and Grazing Management**

- Completed all FY08 lease/license renewal inspections and submitted reports to AGMB prior to November 1
- Did not initiate FY09 lease renewal inspections
- Fully utilized available Org 6032 monies for weed control projects
- Completed range evaluation of unlicensed area Doney Lake (Sec 16 T15N-R11W)
- Worked on sheep grazing proposal. Signed agreement for cooperative development of portable electric night pen with Blackfoot Challenge.

### **Forest Improvement**

- Planted 282,370 trees on 1,000 acres.
- Completed 187 ac of plantation/regeneration surveys.
- Completed 156 ac of pre-commercial thinning.
- Completed 1,000 ac of tree browse prevention
- Burned brush piles on 548 acres
- Broadcast burning on 70 acres
- Completed 600 ac of herbicide application (vegetation control w/ planting).
- Completed 277 ac of noxious weed spraying
- Bio-control Bug Releases 390 acres.

## **R/W Acquisition, Reciprocal Access and Grants**

- Secured access for timber sale projects
  - Temporary access from PCT for Double Beaver, Buck Finley, Fournier. (Also initiate DNRC to reciprocal access on these projects)
  - Temporary access from Sieben Ranch for Still Cool Bugs
  - Temporary access from USFS for Buck Finley and Fournier Creek, Sleeping Child, Timber Creek.
  - Temporary access from private landowners on Tin Cup Salvage.
- Continue work with Sapphire Ranch and Rock Creek Cattle on reciprocal access proposals.
- Processed applications for right-of-way across trust lands
- Participated in R/W working group
- Continued outreach to Counties on historic county roads with emphasis in Missoula and Powell Counties.

In December 2007 the Montana Legacy project (Baucus Farm Bill) affected plans for reciprocal access agreements that were underway with PCT. We did not feel it appropriate to negotiate with PCT on access over lands that might be coming into state ownership. As a result there were no miles granted and received under the reciprocal access/easement exchange programs.

The controversy surrounding the clarification of access rights between USFS/PCT/DNRC has slowed both USFS cost-share and PCT access projects.

### **Navigable Waters**

- Early review of a proposal for replacement/repair of the Butte Municipal Water Diversion on Big Hole River near Divide
- In the process of licensing review for 3 stabilization and diversion projects on the Bitterroot River for Union Ditch Company and Double Fork Ranch (associated with Mitchell Slough)
- Completed processing of 3 MDOT easement applications for bridges over navigable waterways.
- Processed one private bridge crossing of Ninemile Creek
- Processed an historic cable crossing of the Blackfoot River
- Worked with Conservation Districts and reviewed requests for navigable waters. Regularly attended site visits with the Missoula and Bitterroot Conservation Districts to determine whether projects were under DNRC TLMD review.

## **Minerals Management**

- Helped administer reclamation activities on the McDonald Gold Project east of Lincoln. Work included mapping of existing occurrences of noxious weeds, review of planned re-vegetation and weed control plans, inspection of reclaimed sites. Coordinated mineral reclamation activities with planned timber harvest.
- Reviewed and provided comments on exploration license application by Markus Chapman (Montana Barite) Sec 16 T13N-R14W (license issued by MMB). Provided comments on gold exploration application Section 36 T13N-R14W (Application denied by MMB).
- Exploration license cancellation in the Dry Cottonwood Creek area east of Deerlodge.
- No small volume gravel permits issued.